

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 10-15, 18, 20, 21, and 23-27 are currently pending. The Patent Office is thanked for the allowance of claims 4, 5, 10, 14, 15, and 18, and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 20, 26, and 28-31. To facilitate prosecution, claims 1, 6, 11, 23, and 27 have been amended to incorporate the indicated-as-allowable subject matter and claims 7-9, 16, 17, 19, and 28-31 have been cancelled. Claims 20, 21, and 26 have been amended for clarification purposes only. Claim 1 has been rewritten to incorporate all limitations from dependent claim 29 that was indicated by the Patent Office as containing allowable subject matter. Claim 4 has been allowed. Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of indicated-as-allowable dependent claim 8 and intervening claim 7. Claim 9 has been cancelled. Claim 10 has been allowed. Claim 11 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of the indicated-as-allowable dependent claim 30. Claim 20, dependent from claim 11, has been amended to remove the subject matter that is duplicative of cancelled claim 30. Claims 14 and 15 have been allowed. Claims 16 and 17 have been cancelled. Claim 18 has been allowed. Claim 19 has been cancelled. Claim 23 has been amended to incorporate all claim limitations from indicated-as-allowable dependent claim 31. Claim 26 has been amended to remove subject matter duplicative with cancelled claim 31. Claim 27 has been amended to incorporate all the limitations of indicated as allowable dependent claim 28. Because the amendment to the claims merely incorporates subject matter of dependent claims indicated as allowable by the Patent Office into their corresponding base claims, the amendment to the claims should not raise new issues or require further search and consideration. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added.

The Patent Office rejected claims 1-3, 11-13, 21, and 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, U.S. Patent No. 6,084,858, in view of Larsson, U.S. Patent No. 6,535,498. The Patent Office rejected claims 6, 7, 16, 17, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, U.S. Patent No. 6,084,858, in view of Larsson, U.S. Patent No. 6,535,498, in view of Momosaki, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0119538. The Patent Office rejected claims 9 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews, U.S. Patent No. 6,084,858, in view of Larsson, U.S. Patent No. 6,535,498, in view of Hiroyuki, U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2003/0043746.

The Advisory Action dated May 15, 2006, asserted (continuation sheet) "The changes made to independent claims 1, 9, 11, 16, 19 and 23 changes the scope of the claim. Deleting limitations of the claims 1, 9, 11, 16, 19 and 23 and adding previously objected limitations requires further search and consideration. Also, newly added dependent claim 36 is not found in previously presented claims and therefore requires further search and consideration."

In this response, independent claims 1, 6, 11, 23, and 27 have been amended with indicated-as-allowable subject matter from their corresponding dependent claims 29, 8, 30, 31, and 28. Independent claims 9, 16, and 19 have been cancelled along with any corresponding dependent claims. Independent claims 4, 10, 14, and 18 were previously allowed. Claims 1, 6, 11, 23, and 27 should now be in condition for allowance.

It is believed that the claims presented in this response are all in condition for allowance.

The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matthews et al., alone or in combination with Momosaki, Larsson, or Hiroyuki, and to allow all of the pending claims 1-6, 10-15, 18, 20, 21, and 23-27 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

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